



National
University
Of Health Sciences



DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC

CAREER GUIDE



Introduction to the Guide

We created this guide for those of you who are considering pursuing a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree. Aspiring chiropractic physicians have a lot to think about and learn before they decide if, when and where, to pursue such a degree. This guide was created to bring you real insight into exploring an exciting career as a chiropractic physician and is divided into three main sections:

PART I:

UNDERSTANDING THE CAREER AND THE CHIROPRACTIC INDUSTRY

PART II:

COMPARING SCHOOLS AND SELECTING A PROGRAM

PART III:

NAVIGATING THE ADMISSION PROCESS



Defining the Future of Integrated Health Care.

About National University of Health Sciences

Founded in 1906, National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) is a leader in the growing field of integrative medicine and is respected worldwide for success in balancing healing arts and science and combining broad-scope integrative medicine with patient-centered care.

NUHS is an established champion of high admission standards, accreditation and academic excellence for its professions. That's why students from across the globe choose NUHS to pursue higher education in health care.





PART I:

UNDERSTANDING THE CAREER AND THE CHIROPRACTIC INDUSTRY



Introduction to the Chiropractic Medical Field

WHAT DOES A CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN ACTUALLY DO?

A chiropractic physician, or a doctor of chiropractic (DC), specializes in natural, non-invasive health care, and is trained to diagnose, treat and manage a full range of patient conditions. DCs consider the various factors that affect human health, including: biomechanical dysfunction, trauma, hygiene, stress, emotion, nutrition, exercise, posture, etc.

A DC performs adjustments or physical manipulation to the spine and other joints, but might also perform acupuncture, lifestyle and nutritional interventions, rehabilitation therapy, and diagnostic tests like X-ray, ultrasound and blood pressure.





HOW DO DCS PRACTICE?

Chiropractic physicians are able to:



Treat patients effectively with a wide variety of healing skills.



Practice as a primary-care (first contact) physician in most states.



Run their own business or work as an associate in a group or integrative practice.



Specialize in fields such as sports medicine, acupuncture, pediatrics, women's health, neurology, etc.

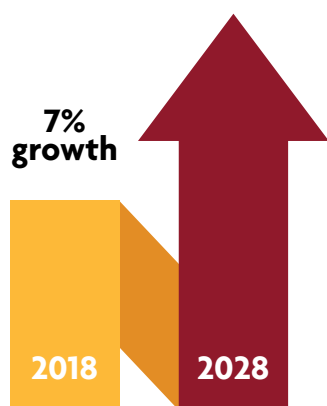


Become licensed in all 50 states. Those seeking licensure as a DC must take national board examinations, as well as apply for licensure in the state where they plan to practice. The professional organizations representing chiropractic physicians include the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC).



What is the career outlook over the next 5-10 years?

A LOOK AT THE INDUSTRY'S STATISTICS



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
([bls.org](https://www.bls.org))

If you are considering a career in chiropractic medicine, there has never been a better time to invest in an advanced degree in this field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also notes the expected growth toward chiropractic medicine. “Employment of chiropractors is projected to grow 7 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. People across all age groups are becoming increasingly interested in alternative or complementary health care. Chiropractic care is appealing to patients because chiropractors use nonsurgical methods of treatment and do not prescribe drugs” ([bls.org](https://www.bls.org)).

HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND THE TREND TOWARD INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

At NUHS, we believe in bringing together professionals from a broad range of medical specialties for the benefit of patients and the health care industry as a whole. This makes our graduates ideally suited for the growing number of integrative practice opportunities. Compensation for working in an integrated setting is also more rewarding, according to the Chiropractic Economics 23rd Annual Salary and Expense survey in 2020. The total average annual compensation for DCs in a solo practice is \$119,500. However, DCs working in an integrated setting earned an average annual total compensation of \$204,500.

COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

Individual practice



\$119,500

Integrated practice



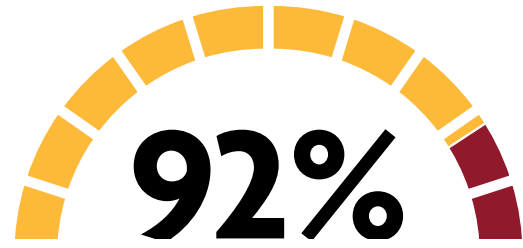
\$204,500

*According to Chiropractic Economics, total compensation for unincorporated DCs is defined as earnings after tax-deductible expenses, but before income taxes. For DCs in a professional corporation, it is the sum of salary, bonuses, and retirement/profit-sharing contributions made on their behalf.

Source: 23rd Annual Salary and Expense Survey 2020, Chiropractic Economics Magazine

FLEXIBILITY. ENTREPRENEURSHIP. BALANCE.

Studies show the importance of a healthy work-life balance for all, but particularly those in health care professions. A balanced work-life approach has been found to be beneficial not just in terms of overall job satisfaction, but also for achieving the main reason many chiropractic physicians choose the profession in the first place: the fulfillment of helping patients. According to one survey, 92 percent of chiropractors **REPORT** a sense of high meaning, and 70 percent a high level of job satisfaction.



Percentage of chiropractors who report a sense of high meaning in their chosen vocation

Source: <https://www.payscale.com/data-packages/most-and-least-meaningful-jobs/full-list>

In 2020 **CHIROPRACTIC ECONOMICS** survey, more than 400 chiropractors reported seeing patients between 31 and 40 hours per week. Contrastingly, an **AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION** study found that most allopathic physicians devote between 40 and 60 hours each week to work, and 25 percent work between 61 and 80 hours per week. What does this mean? Chiropractic physicians have more opportunity to structure their own professional time, affording greater opportunity to achieve work-life balance, and achieve sustainable career satisfaction.

The AMA study reporting that allopathic physicians devote between 40 and 60 hrs per week still comes up as the definitive article at: **HOW MANY HOURS ARE IN THE AVERAGE PHYSICIAN WORKWEEK?**

CAREER OPTIONS FOR CHIROPRACTORS:

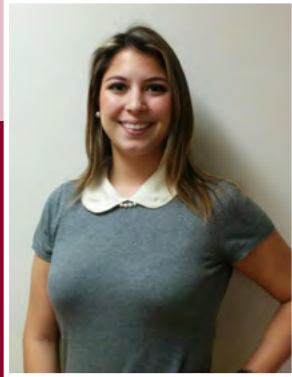
DC graduates have a variety of different options after completing a degree, such as:

- ▶ PRIVATE PRACTICE – GENERAL OR SPECIALIZED PRACTICE
- ▶ GROUP PRACTICE OR INTEGRATIVE CLINIC
- ▶ HOSPITAL OR WELLNESS INSTITUTION
- ▶ UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER, FACULTY, OR ADMINISTRATOR



WHY NUHS STUDENTS CHOOSE CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

Students have many reasons for pursuing a chiropractic medicine program. Here are a few statements from NUHS students explaining their reasons for becoming chiropractic physicians. You can read about other students' journeys by following their [WEEKLY BLOGS](#) on the NUHS website.



VICTORIA MARTINEZ

DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC STUDENT AT OUR ILLINOIS CAMPUS

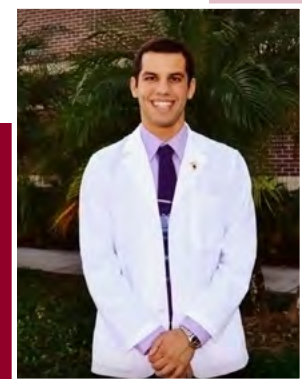
“Like many other students earning their doctor of chiropractic degree, I grew up going to a chiropractic physician. My mother, who had been in a car accident, experienced an amazing recovery and took our family to the same chiropractic physician from that time forward.

Through my physician's care, I realized that being a health care practitioner is one of the best ways you can help people. Like my mother, so many other people have had their lives changed by the treatments they received from their doctors. While there were many fields to choose from in health care, there were certain things that set this field apart for me, and that's why I chose to pursue a degree in chiropractic medicine.”

ADDISON OZAKYOL

DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC STUDENT AT OUR FLORIDA SITE

“Back in high school I found out that I have two extra ribs in my neck (cervical ribs) which cause a range of symptoms down into my arms and hands (Thoracic Outlet Syndrome – TOS). Playing multiple sports became a challenge and I started to seek help to manage and treat my symptoms. I started receiving care from my high school athletic trainer and an ART certified chiropractor, and between the two I not only began to return fully to my athletics but also began to develop an interest in health care. I soon learned that the scope of practice for chiropractors is broader than athletic trainers, providing a different range of treatments to be made available for patients. After experiencing how much chiropractic care can help someone; I knew that I want to do whatever it takes to provide the best care possible to my future patients.”



What are the traits of a successful DC?



PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

Generally, DCs spend more time with their patients than MDs in order to get at the root cause of health problems. This requires you to have a genuine interest in and compassion for others.



APTITUDE FOR SCIENCE

A curious mind and an interest in problem-solving will help you succeed in a chiropractic medical school program. It will also give you the diagnostic skills you need to serve your patients well.



EXCELLENT WORK ETHIC

You must be willing to do the work required for a rigorous medical school program. Time management and study skills will serve you well as a chiropractic student and later as a chiropractic physician.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

80.73% of DCs work in a solo or group practice. Success in such a practice requires a willingness to build a patient base through business and marketing skills.



PART II:

COMPARING SCHOOLS AND SELECTING A PROGRAM



A young man with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt, is leaning forward and gesturing with his right hand while talking to a woman with long brown hair. They are outdoors in a sunny, blurred background. The man has a focused expression.

Selecting the Right Doctor of Chiropractic Program

WHY NUHS STUDENTS CHOOSE CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

There are actually important differences in philosophy among chiropractic schools. Some focus more exclusively on adjusting as the primary treatment for all patient conditions, adhering to a traditional “chiropractic philosophy” of health that originated at the turn of the century.

Other schools, like National University of Health Sciences, use modern medical science, evidence-based treatments, medical diagnostics and laboratory tests, and never hesitate to refer or co-manage a case with an MD or other health care practitioners, when required. In this way, National University provides a broad-scope approach to addressing the whole health of each patient. National University feels this approach better prepares graduates for success as the industry trends toward more multidisciplinary and integrated practice settings.

Questions to ask before making your decision...

Selecting a school for your Doctor of Chiropractic program can be challenging. You should start by asking important questions like the ones listed below:

Q Which school will best prepare you for the future of health care?

INTEGRATION:

With a growing interest in multidisciplinary and integrated practice settings, it is important to look for a school that prepares you for that future. This means a program where DCs train to work in cooperation with other health professionals, such as MDs, DOs, NDs, etc.

PRIMARY CARE:

Look for a school that prepares you as a primary care physician. Most states define a chiropractor as a primary care physician, meaning you are able to serve as a patient's first contact in the health care system, can diagnose and manage the full range of patient conditions, and refer and co-manage cases with physicians in other medical specialties.





WHAT WE OFFER:

NUHS prepares graduates for the future of health care by offering a campus dedicated to integrative medicine. You'll study and work side by side with students and faculty from its naturopathic medicine, oriental medicine and acupuncture programs. This experience prepares you to understand and speak with a wider range of medical professionals when you graduate. In turn, you'll be able to establish strong referral networks with other physicians, and gain respect in the medical community. Most of all, you'll be able to provide better advice and care for your future patients.



Which school offers the most beneficial opportunities for clinical training?

GEOGRAPHY:

Consider a school located in a thriving health care job market, which results in greater employment opportunities after graduation. Look for hospitals, veterans' clinics, libraries, science and health industries nearby as well as convenient transportation (airports, trains, buses).

CLINIC OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider the clinical phase of the program. You should spend a full year treating actual patients under the supervision of clinical faculty, learning how to keep and read medical records, and gain the confidence and skills to succeed when you start your own practice.

WHAT WE OFFER:

NUHS offers DC programs in either suburban Chicago or the Tampa Bay area of Florida. You have a broad range of options as an intern from our university clinics to rotations in hospitals, veteran's facilities or community health clinics.



Which school provides the most comprehensive medical school education?

BASIC SCIENCES:

Review the basic science curriculum. As with any good medical education, the program should include a strong emphasis in basic sciences, with rigorous coursework in anatomy, biochemistry, pathology and more.

CLINICAL SCIENCES:

Review the clinical science coursework and practical training in the program. This part of a DC degree teaches students important skills in diagnosing patient conditions, performing physical exams, and utilizing chiropractic techniques, physical rehabilitation, and diagnostic imaging. Students learn through practical training how to build successful doctor-patient relationships.

WHAT WE OFFER:

At NUHS, your basic science coursework will be similar to that of a typical MD student, including one year of hands-on human cadaver dissection in our gross anatomy laboratory. Our clinical sciences will have you practicing examination skills in your first six months, with a heavy emphasis on thorough diagnostic skills.



Which school delivers the most in-depth chiropractic adjustment/technique instruction?

EVIDENCE-BASED:

Understand the technique instruction, to be sure that the chiropractic adjustments taught are backed by research proving their effectiveness. Look for a school that offers evidence-based instruction and technique.





HANDS-ON:

Understand how chiropractic techniques are taught. Some chiropractic schools have you simply watch an instructor adjust for a long period of time, teaching you only how to “set-up” your hands for the technique. You might not actually get to perform an adjustment on your own until far into your training. Instead, look for a school that allows you to practice complete hands-on adjustments in class, under supervision, in your first year of school.

WHAT WE OFFER:

DC students at NUHS learn over 100 scientifically proven adjustments, and master them with hours of hands-on practice. At NUHS, you'll start practicing adjustments under expert supervision within six months of starting your program.



Which school supports your success?

TUTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

Check if the professors teach classes directly or use assistants. Ask if the school offers free peer tutoring (where senior students provide help in specific topics).

BUSINESS CLASSES:

Discover what business classes are included in the curriculum. When you graduate, you'll most likely be starting your own business, and you'll also need to understand insurance, billing, marketing and business management procedures. Be sure the school you pick offers classes that give you these skills. for practicing physicians, or is it also available to DC students? Does the institution offer an opportunity to enroll in dual-degrees or multiple programs so that you can earn more credentials with less time and money?



ADDITIONAL EDUCATION:

Consider what extra courses are available to students on the weekend or online, that could augment your primary degree. Is continuing education reserved primarily for practicing physicians, or is it also available to DC students? Does the institution offer an opportunity to enroll in dual-degrees or multiple programs so that you can earn more credentials with less time and money?

STRONG ALUMNI NETWORK:

Look for a school where alumni are involved, communicate with each other and current students, and where you can reach out to them for mentoring and career support.

WHAT WE OFFER:

In addition to opportunities to earn multiple degrees on one campus, National University offers an array of student support services that contribute to a successful educational experience.

These include academic advising, peer tutoring, flexible tracks, various student clubs, and more. Business classes designed to help you build, market, and manage your practice are included in the curriculum, often with industry experts as guest speakers. NUHS has an excellent postgraduate department where students are welcome and encouraged to take additional courses that provide specialty skills for future practice. Finally, National University has an engaged alumni network that make themselves available to provide current support, mentoring, shadowing experiences, etc.





PART III:

NAVIGATING THE ADMISSION PROCESS





Next Step: Understanding Admission Requirements

GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Here is what chiropractic schools will expect from you when you apply for admission:

- ▶ **3.0 MINIMUM GPA** (or 2.75 under the Alternative Admission Track Plan)
- ▶ **90 HOURS OF UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK OR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE** (NUHS only)
- ▶ **SCIENCE PREREQUISITES, INCLUDING LAB-BASED COURSEWORK IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS**
- ▶ **NON-SCIENCE PREREQUISITES, INCLUDING COURSEWORK IN ENGLISH, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES** (Not required for NUHS)





TIPS ON ADMISSION

What undergraduate degree is required?

A science major such as biology or chemistry is the best preparation, since chiropractic schools require you to have completed a certain amount of science credits, including laboratory sciences. Many undergraduate schools have “pre-health profession” or “pre-chiropractic” tracks. Don’t worry, even if you don’t have a science major, you can complete necessary science prerequisites prior to admission.

National University offers a wide selection of undergraduate science courses right on campus in our **PREREQUISITE PROGRAM**. Some DC students begin at NUHS in that program in order to complete missing science coursework.

When should I apply?

Most chiropractic schools have a rolling admissions calendar, meaning they accept applications year-round.

At National University, new classes start September, January and May of each year! You’ll want to start the application process 6 months to a year before you intend to start your DC program. This will allow ample time for all admission requirements to be completed, and ensure that there are still spots left in the program.

APPLY EARLY!

What will make me a more competitive applicant?

You can make yourself more attractive to admissions officials at chiropractic schools by doing well in science course prerequisites and showing your interest and commitment to the field. You can demonstrate this by having a “shadow experience” – spending time in a chiropractor’s office in order to understand if this is the right career for you. National University offers “shadow experiences” before or after you apply with a network of practicing graduates nationwide.

It is also important to select undergraduate classes that will make you more prepared when you begin your advanced degree. Review our **SUGGESTED COURSE OUTLINES** to understand the courses you should be taking at your undergraduate institution that will satisfy our prerequisite requirements.

What if I don’t have all the prerequisite courses or requirements?

Even if you think you don’t have everything needed to apply to a chiropractic school, call an admissions counselor to consider your options. They may be able to help!

At National University, students without **PREREQUISITE SCIENCE COURSES** may be able to complete them through the school’s undergraduate courses right on campus. You also may qualify for an Alternative Admissions Track Plan if your GPA isn’t quite 3.0. This provides an opportunity to work more closely with an academic advisor to help ensure you can perform well in a rigorous program.



What documents will be required?

Most chiropractic schools will require the following documents:

- ▶ **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**
- ▶ **APPLICATION FEE AND DEPOSIT**
- ▶ **ESSAY QUESTION RESPONSES**
- ▶ **CHARACTER REFERENCES**
- ▶ **UNDERGRADUATE TRANSCRIPTS**

NOTE: MOST CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOLS WILL NOT REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ **STANDARDIZED TESTS (E.G. MCAT, GRE)**
- ▶ **ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW**

NUHS provides a quick summary of the **ADMISSION ESSENTIALS** on its website.

Visit Options

The best way to decide if the college you are interested in is the right place for you is to attend a visit event! Learn about [ALL OF OUR VISIT EVENTS HERE](#) and receive a tuition credit for attending! We offer a variety of in-person and online events and experiences.

Financial Options

Like any professional medical degree, training to be a chiropractic physician is a big investment. Normally, chiropractic students rely on some type of financial aid in the form of scholarships or loans. For a DC degree, students normally qualify for both federal direct and private loans. Many schools offer a variety of institutional scholarships, so be sure to ask. The NUHS website includes a breakdown of [COST ESTIMATES](#) for its Doctor of Chiropractic degree program.

Not sure where to begin or what to do next? Read more about the financial aid process on the NUHS website. Regarding the types of aid you may receive for your education plan, research the available loan programs, scholarships and federal work-study programs.

FINANCIAL AID

Why Should You Choose a DC Program at NUHS?

UNCOMPROMISING RIGOR – WHY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY?

WATCH VIDEO

YOUR NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS! NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES OFFERS THE DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC DEGREE, AND IS A GREAT PLACE TO START YOUR COMPARISON OF SCHOOLS.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES





OUR ACADEMIC SUPERIORITY

National University's chiropractic program is rigorous, uncompromising and built on a solid foundation in the basic sciences. We maintain the highest admission standards for our students. For example, NUHS is the only chiropractic degree program to require a bachelor's degree for admission. Students in the naturopathic medicine program are also required to have a baccalaureate degree. As a result, NUHS graduates often become leaders in their professions, and credit National University as the reason for their confidence and success.



OUR DEDICATION TO INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

National University prepares graduates for the future of health care by offering a campus dedicated to integrative medicine. In fact, you'll study and work side by side with students and faculty from its naturopathic medicine, oriental medicine and acupuncture programs. As a result, you will be better prepared to work and thrive in today's integrated health care market.



OUR HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP

Founded in 1906, National University has over 110 years of experience in graduating leaders in the chiropractic profession. A driving force for moving, natural health care into mainstream medicine, we were the first to offer hospital experience to chiropractic students, push for national accreditation of chiropractic colleges, and publish medically-indexed and peer-reviewed scientific journals.





WE HOPE THAT THIS GUIDE WAS HELPFUL AS YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE A DOCTOR
OF CHIROPRACTIC DEGREE. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO US IF
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS OR
THE NUHS STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

CALL THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AT 1-800-826-6285
OR EMAIL US AT ADMISSIONS@NUHS.EDU.

